

Message Text

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ORIGIN DOTE-00

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DRAFTED BY DOT/TPI-42:BARAMUNDO

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRN, OCON, ELTN, MX

SUBJECT:FELIX/BINDER MEETING

REF: MEXICO 4497

1. FYI. BINDER SEES LITTLE REASON FOR SPECIAL TRIP TO MEXICO CITY AT THIS TIME FOR DISCUSSION BROWNSVILLE-MATAMOROS PROJECT BECAUSE NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE ANY COMMITMENT CONCERNING POSSIBLE FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN FUNDING OF PROJECT. IN FACT, ANY STATEMENT BY HIM ON CURRENT STATUS OF FUNDING MIGHT HAVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE EFFECT RATHER THAN ACHIEVING "BREAKTHROUGH" (PARA 4, REFTEL). DOT RECOGNIZES OF COURSE THAT BROWNSVILLE MATTER WILL ARISE ON PROGRAM COORDINATORS AGENDA AS PLAN-NING EVOLVES, BUT IS SIMPLY RELUCTANT TO PRESS MEXICANS FORMALLY WHILE U. S. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS REMAIN UNSETTLED. DOT FEELS THAT AMATO SEEKING COMMITMENT ON USE OF FEDERAL U. S. FUNDS FOR PORTION OF RELOCATION WORK ON MEXICAN SIDE. HE AND MEXICANS AWARE THAT LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY CONTAINED

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IN 1972 FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY ACT HAS BEEN CONSTRUED BY FHWA

GENERAL COUNSEL AS BROAD ENOUGH TO AUTHORIZE SUCH USE.
END FYI.

2. BINDER DESIROUS OF MAINTAINING REGULAR AND CLOSE WORKING

RELATIONSHIP WITH FELIX IN ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE BORDER
TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND THEREFORE HOPES TO HAVE
EARLY USEFUL MEETING OF PROGRAM COORDINATORS. HE SHARES
INTEREST OF FELIX IN HAVING CONSTRUCTIVE NEW AGENDA ITEMS.
TCO SHOULD SO ADVISE FELIX AND THAT AGENDA PROPOSAL FOR
SUCH MEETING WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. BINDER CONCURS IN POSSI-
BILITIES SUGGESTED PARA 2, REFTEL AND WILL INCLUDE THEM
IN HIS AGENDA PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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